

# Congressional Art Competition Guidelines 2009

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

- The competition is open to high school students only. Exceptions may be made for schools that have 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades in one building.
- In order to allow an art work to hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, the following restrictions are necessary:
  - Two-dimensional only
  - Each art work can be **no larger than** 30 inches by 30 inches and 15lbs in weight. This includes the outside dimensions of the frame.
  - No more than 4 inches in depth
  - Art work must arrive in Washington by the time specified and framed to the appropriate framing guidelines (see below)
- Art work categories are as follows:
  - Paintings: (oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.)
  - Drawings: (Pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers)
  - Collage: Must be two- dimensional
  - Prints: (Lithographs, silkscreen, block prints)
  - Mixed Media
  - Computer generated art
  - Photography
- An attached form must be signed by the teacher and the student to certify the originality of the art piece.
- Each entry must be an original in concept, design and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. **Note:** Any entry which has been reproduced from an existing photo, painting or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and WILL NOT be accepted.
- The final decision regarding suitability for the exhibition in the Capitol will be made by a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol.

## FRAMING GUIDELINES

- Two-dimensional work only. All work must be framed.
- **Framed work** should be **no larger than** 30 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 4 inches deep **including** the **outside** dimensions of the frame. (Please double check size before submitting; framed work larger than the dimensions cannot be accepted.)
- **All work**, except for oil paintings, needs to be protected by Plexiglas or glass and framed.]

- Frames should be kept as simple and as sturdy as possible. Wood or metal frames are recommended.
- No “snap on” frames with glass may be used.
- Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared.
- Use sturdy picture hangers. Two screw eyes or other acceptable hardware should be attached, 1/4 of the way down from the top of the frame (see diagram below), at the right and the left sides of the back of the work, in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. Place wire between these hangers.
- Do not attach labels, ribbon, etc. to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the back side which side is up.
- A copy of the Student Information/Release Form **must be** attached to the back of the artwork.

## SUITABILITY GUIDELINES

- As outlined in these guidelines, the final decision regarding suitability for exhibition in the Capitol is left to a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in the Capitol.
- Artwork must adhere to the Policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or of a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portions not in consonance with the Commission’s policy will be omitted from the exhibit.